

Writing about Fiction

**A PPT prepared by B.A. Luis Salazar Castro
for the course LM-1472 Englis Rhetoric III**

Generalities

- You may need to read fiction twice to understand it better.
- You need to pay attention to its structure:
 - its plot
 - subplots
 - point of view
 - setting
 - characters
- And to its more specialized elements:
 - irony, images, symbols, and foreshadowing

Structure

- The plot is the main structural element
 - What is the central conflict?
 - How is it resolved?
 - How do the events of the story advance through time?
- Point of view reveals the thoughts and feelings that the author wants readers to know
 - omniscient
 - limited
 - first-person
 - unreliable

Structure (continued)

- The setting also serves a major purpose
 - the place, time, and culture (geography)
 - this combination creates an atmosphere
- The atmosphere is a combination of elements that generate a mood
 - a carnival or festival
 - a funeral or war

Imagery and Symbolism

- They are easier to understand through practice
- Images are words or phrases that appeal to the senses. They can be:
 - visual, auditory, gustatory, kinetic, thermal, and tactile
- Motifs occur when an image is repeated constantly
- Symbols are images that become linked to specific meanings
- Archetypes are symbols supposed to be universal